

Safety system ignored at Chernobyl

The Chernobyl disaster was blamed on staff turning off an emergency cooling system during tests on the nuclear power plant's fourth reactor

Experts considering the Soviet report at a meeting in Vienna described the catastrophe as the accident that need not have happened

The Soviet nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in April was branded yesterday as the accident that need not have happened. The verdict comes from experts examining the report prepared by the Soviet Union for a meeting next week of all member governments of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

One of the specialists described the report of the catastrophe as "the most frank and comprehensive account possible under the circumstances. But it is frightening to discover the extent to which safety systems had been removed and safety procedures breached for the purpose of conducting an experiment."

Yet an over-riding question remains. British scientists are completely baffled as to why their Soviet counterparts wanted to conduct the experiment that led to disaster.

It will certainly be among the issues raised in Vienna by the British team, which includes advisers to the Department of Energy, Atomic Energy Authority, the Central Electricity Generating Board, and the National Radiological Protection Board.

But the chain of events which ensued also revealed a fundamental flaw in the design of the RBMK type of reactor. The accident happened when the reactor developed a head of steam that

caused fuel elements to burst. A subsequent effect was the release of hydrogen, caused by a chemical reaction between hot zirconium and steam, and followed by the burning for several days of the graphite part of the core.

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

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Moscow lists six nuclear errors

From A Correspondent, Moscow

The Chernobyl nuclear accident had occurred mainly because staff had turned off an emergency cooling system during tests on the station's fourth reactor, Soviet nuclear energy officials said yesterday.

They said the death toll from the April 26 accident in the Ukraine had risen to 31, and more than 200 people were suffering from acute exposure to radiation.

Mr Yuri Izrael, head of the State Committee on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control, said 135,000 people, including 45,000 children, had been evacuated from areas around Chernobyl.

Mr Andronik Petrosyants, head of the State Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy, condemned as "highly irregular" the tests by Chernobyl staff to see how long power could be maintained after switching over to a diesel generator.

Mr Valery Legasov, a senior official at the Academy of Sciences, described this error as the most serious of the six that the staff committed.

Lonrho takeover move on Today

By Michael McCarthy

Lonrho, Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland's international trading company which owns The Observer, was believed last night to have gained a controlling interest in Today, the daily newspaper launched this year by Mr Eddy Shah.

It is the beginning of the end of Mr Shah's bold attempt to be the mould-breaker of Fleet Street as the first national proprietor to dispense with traditional printing unions and embrace new technology.

Mr Shah, who is on holiday in Europe, will remain as chairman of Today for the time being, but sources on the paper indicated that he will review the position when he returns. He has reduced his stake in the troubled publication from 51 per cent to less than 25 per cent to avoid his purchase of a local newspaper group in Warrington, made yesterday, being automatically referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Shah is understood to have disposed of his unwanted shares in News UK, Today's parent company, over the past few days. He had said that it would be "the logical course" to dispose of them to Lonrho, who in June rescued Today from the brink of collapse by taking a 36 per cent stake in the newspaper and provided a vital injection of £13.5 million.

Although Mr Shah has avoided the Monopolies Commission, a takeover of Today by Lonrho would automatically be referred. It would be the second time Mr Rowland has been subject to such scrutiny, as his takeover of The Observer from the US oil company Atlantic Richfield was subject to a long inquiry by the commission in 1981.

Lonrho's presence in and influence on Today have been increasing since the company appointed its own managing director, Mr Terry Cassidy, to try to get the newspaper out of the increasingly deep financial trouble.

Mr Cassidy is thought to be planning an autumn relaunch. But if Lonrho gained full control a question mark must hang over the future of Today's editor, Mr Brian MacArthur.

Mr Shah clinched his own takeover deal in Warrington yesterday. He gained the Warrington Guardian group in the face of a rival bid from the northern subsidiary of Reed International.



On top of the world: Ian Botham, recalled to the England Test team, celebrates with a new world wicket-taking record

Botham in record comeback

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Ian Botham yesterday produced the cricketing comeback of the year. The Somerset all-rounder, recalled to the England team for the third Test against New Zealand, captured three wickets to set a world record of 357 wickets in Test matches.

Botham, who was banned on May 29 for two months from all international and first-class cricket after admitting he had smoked cannabis, had taken three for 36 when play ended at 142 for four because of rain.

Botham, mercurial and controversial, had Bruce Edgar caught by Graham Gooch with the first ball of his first over to the delight of supporters, who had held up placards outside the Oval before play started to hail Botham's return for his first Test of the summer.

He then trapped Jeff Crowle before with the last ball of his second over to overtake the world Test record of Dennis Lillee, the Australian fast bowler, of 355 wickets.

Botham's figures then were two wickets for eight runs and he went on to have Jeremy Coney caught by Gooch.

Botham's performance came amidst new controversy with The Sun suing the Test and County Cricket Board because Botham has been banned from writing articles for the newspaper on this winter's tour of Australia.

Report, pages 27-30, 32.

'Stockton' editor resigns

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Mr Harry Phibbs, editor of the Tory student magazine that accused Lord Stockton of being a war criminal, resigned yesterday.

He also apologized unreservedly to Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman, and undertook to retrieve and

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hand over to Central Office as many as possible of the 1,800 copies of New Agenda distributed.

In return, Central Office agreed to drop writs for libel, misrepresentation and breach of contract against Mr Phibbs and Anagh Graphical, of Ilford in Essex, the magazine's printers.

The agreement follows Mr Tebbit's angry denunciation of an interview by Mr Phibbs, published in the quarterly magazine bearing the Conservative Party imprint, in which Count Nikolai Tolstoy, the historian, repeated his allegation that the then Mr Harold Macmillan was responsible in 1945 for sending back 40,000 Cossacks to certain death at the hands of Stalin.

Mr Phibbs, aged 20, said in a statement: "While I stand by my personal position on the substance of the Tolstoy interview, I recognize that it was wrong to include the interview, without permission, in an official party publication

Continued on page 16, col 8

Tax reforms by Alliance hit the well-to-do

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

The Alliance yesterday denounced a radical package of tax and benefits reforms that would hit families earning above £10,000 a year - the bedrock of its predominantly middle class support - to pay for big increases for the unemployed and low earners.

Families with one breadwinner and two children grossing £30,000 a year would be about £1,250 out of pocket a year, though the changes sought in the scheme to tackle poverty would not be implemented all at once.

The poor would gain handsomely with, for instance, jobless couples with two children picking up an extra £700 a year. That would jump to nearly £1,000 a year for the same family with one member earning £7,000 a year.

The plan, the "biggest proposed redistribution of the poor put forward by any party" is set out in an SDP policy paper fleshing out commitments given in the Alliance document A Partnership for Progress.

It proposes merging the tax and benefits system, replacing family income supplement and supplementary benefit with a single "basic benefit", abolishing national insurance contributions by employees, scrapping the married man's allowance and introducing separate taxation for married women and a £4.50 a week rise in child benefit, while making it taxable on the income of the caring parent, usually the mother.

Weekly pensions would be raised to £41 for a single person and £63.25 for a couple, topped up by basic benefit of £3.70 or £5.75 and their

scope extended to nearly everyone over retirement age.

Yesterday party leaders accepted they are relying on the "altruism of Mr Above Average" to fund the drive against poverty, which, they say, has been carefully constructed to devote cash to those most in need, without adding to public sector borrowing.

Mr Dick Taverne, chairman of the SDP taxation reform and benefits working party, said: "If you want money for

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such reform to deal with poverty, you have got to start asking for some sacrifice from people who are not that much above the average."

The SDP also said that its plan to bring the tax and benefits system together, through much greater co-operation between the Inland Revenue and the Department of Health and Social Security, and possibly a merger, would mean fewer bureaucrats and administrative savings.

Under their proposals employed and the unemployed would be entitled to the basic benefit. That would be progressively withdrawn from people in work as their incomes rose.

The party estimates that the extra cost to the Exchequer of £3.2 billion will be covered by the extra taxes on income plus about £500 million from changes in capital transfer tax.

It proposes a personal tax allowance of £2,100 for all to be paid as £799 per head to be set against tax.

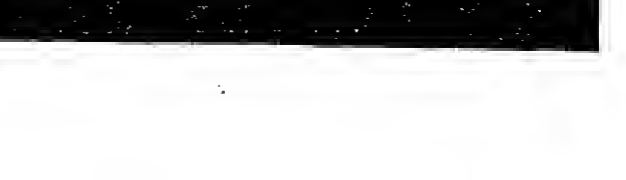
at his disposal, had already made one attempt to break out of jail in London while awaiting his extradition hearing.

On the night of May 1-2 he attempted to saw through the bars of his cell at Pentonville prison with a saw that had been smuggled into him. It was understood he had made considerable progress when he was discovered by prison officers.

Mr Cornwell was being held in the remand wing of the prison where security is less strict: remand prisoners are allowed to have food brought in from the outside and to wear their own clothes.

Last night the Home Office confirmed that he had tried to escape. Mr Cornwell has been on the run from Australian police for 10 years.

The Cornwell case, page 3

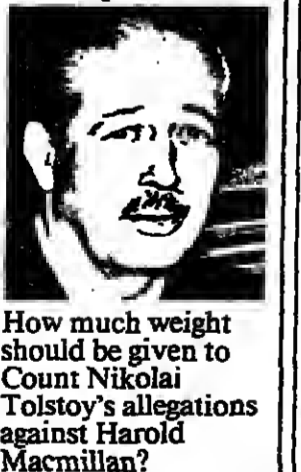


Tomorrow

The big one JUMBO

The Times Jumbo crossword for the bank holiday

A question of reputation



How much weight should be given to Count Nikolai Tolstoy's allegations against Harold Macmillan?

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was won yesterday by Mrs L.R. Woodbine of London, S.W.8. Details, page 3.

Football ban follows police report

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Mark Falco, the Tottenham Hotspur forward, has been banned for two matches and fined £1,500 after being reported to the Football Association (FA) in an unprecedented action by the police for making inflammatory gestures at Aston Villa supporters.

A police inspector even considered arresting Falco to charge him with a criminal offence when he celebrated two goals in Tottenham's 4-2 victory on May 3 by putting three fingers up after the third goal and four fingers after his fourth.

Britain resists base rate cut to protect sterling

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England, concerned about the pound's vulnerability on the foreign exchanges, said no to cheaper money yesterday.

There were hopes in the London money market that the Bank would permit an early cut in base rates, now 10 per cent, after the reduction in United States interest rates late on Wednesday.

Drivers get breathalysed without fear of arrest

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Police are offering motorists the chance to take a breath test without the risk of arrest.

In an experiment which began in London this week, one volunteer in three has been over the legal limit.

individual's physical build, weight and general health can account for the different results.

The experiment is being carried out in three London boroughs - Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Newham - but may be extended by the Metropolitan Police after its six-week run.

The police team, from the traffic department at Bow, east London, have been offering the tests to lunchtime commuters near underground stations and public houses and restaurants.

Table with 4 columns: Home News, Overseas, Apps, Arts, Births/deaths, Marriages, Bridge, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Features, Leaders, Letters, TV & Radio, Sport, Theatre, TV & Radio, Weather, Wills.

Vertical text on the left margin: Ireland, want to see, CYCLING, dominant French, ar up for Colorado, Gloucest, attempt, ture Tom, Johnson, had...

Australia toughens its sanctions to 'bring Pretoria to its senses'

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Australia yesterday announced a package of sanctions against South Africa which go beyond the measures agreed by the majority group at the recent Commonwealth mini-summit in London.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that the Government was implementing the 11 sanctions agreed between Australia, Bahamas, Canada, India, Zambia and Zimbabwe - and rejected by Britain - and was taking an additional two independent measures.

These amount to the closure of the South African Trade Commission office in Melbourne, and the allocation in the budget of \$Aus 5 million (£2.01 million) in assistance to South African refugees. Officials said privately that this aid could benefit the African National Congress.

Mr Hawke announced that the following measures agreed in London will also follow:

- South African Airways is to have its landing rights terminated, ending the weekly Johannesburg-Sydney flight. Under the bilateral agreement one year's notice has to be given.
- Thereafter the weekly Qantas flight to Zimbabwe will be Australia's only direct air link to southern Africa, and the Australian national

Paper prints censored news

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's oldest newspaper, the Cape Times, yesterday gave its readers a glimpse of some of the information it had been unable to report over the past two months because of restrictions imposed under the state of emergency.

Council for the Government conceded in a Supreme Court hearing in Pietermaritzburg, in Natal, this week that two of the restrictions had been improperly promulgated and were no longer binding.

The two restrictions, now in abeyance, prohibited journalists from reporting on the actions of the police and Army and from entering any area where "unrest" was occurring, without official permission.

The Cape Times gave the following examples of incidents it had been unable to report:

- June 18: Police arrest and/or detain 999 members of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union at a dairy company in Johannesburg.

Details on Gurkhas released

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Army for the first time issued precise figures yesterday on the number of Gurkhas who made representations to avoid being discharged from the Army after the incident in which two officers were injured during a scuffle.

They show that in the support company of 1st Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, 123 soldiers were considered for discharge as a result of a failure to co-operate in an inquiry after the incident in May.

Of these, 36 made representations against being discharged, and in 12 cases the discharge was rescinded.

There are three cases which are still undecided. The representations were made through the Gurkhas' officers and went up to Brigadier Ray Pitt, Commander Gurkha Field Force in Hong Kong.

Deng still in the pink at 82

From Robert Gries, Peking

Mr Deng Xiaoping (right), the Chinese leader, celebrates his 82nd birthday today without the fanfare of the personality cult that marked the reign of Mao Tse-tung, founder of the People's Republic.

While Mao lived, and particularly during the turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), huge posters, buttons, banners, Little Red Books, and gigantic portraits bore the likeness of the Great Helmsman.

But Mr Deng, the 5 ft-tall peppery politician from Sichuan province who survived two periods of exile in the countryside to take power in 1978, has deliberately played down his role in putting China out of the dark ages of ideology and setting it on the modern road.

America agonizes in aftermath of massacre

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Oklahoma massacre at Edmond post office on Wednesday has revived America's gun law controversy, one of the nation's longest, most emotional and divisive rows.

On a hot summer day Patrick Sherrill, aged 44, a postal worker facing dismissal, killed 14 co-workers before shooting himself. Television reports said that his body was found with two .45-calibre pistols, an unused .22-calibre handgun, and a mailbox of ammunition.

Yet Americans remain bitterly divided over calls for stricter gun control laws. Millions still deeply believe in the frontier spirit of the right of every American to carry arms.

Symbolically, President Reagan, despite the attempt on his life, is not a strong advocate of stringent gun control laws.

He and many others maintain that it is people and not guns that kill. It has been widely reported that Mrs Reagan used to sleep with a little Iwavy-handled pistol under her pillow.

Marrow donor delayed

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet authorities have promised to let a Jewish woman emigrate to donate bone marrow to her brother, but her father-in-law is refusing to sign documents which will enable her to leave, her husband said yesterday.

Mr Viktor Fleurov, a physician, said emigration officials had informed him that they were granting permission to himself, his wife Inessa, and their two daughters to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

Tamil refugees 'feared German expulsion'

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The Help and Information Organization of Tamils in West Germany said yesterday that the 154 refugees who fled to Canada on a West German freighter did so because they feared that the Bonn Government would clamp down on asylum-seekers and refugees in general.

They feared that they would be sent back to Sri Lanka, and that would have meant death for them," he said.

Wurlitzer loss

Deliah (UPI) - The Equity Life Assurance Company has foreclosed on the beleaguered Wurlitzer organ company because of its inability to meet its July mortgage payment, a company spokesman said.

He delights in telling guests that he still chain-smokes Panda brand cigarettes, enjoys a drop of liquor, and does not mind looking at pretty girls.

America agonizes in aftermath of massacre

Debate on gun law revived by shootings

On August 1, 1966, 16 people were killed and 31 wounded by a sniper from a tower at the University of Texas at Austin. He was shot by police.

The nation has never really recovered emotionally from the assassinations of President Kennedy, his brother Robert, and Dr Martin Luther King, and the 1981 attempt on President Reagan's life.



Armed FBI agents (above left) moving in on the Edmond post office where Patrick Sherrill (right) killed 14 people. Residents (below) gathered only hours later for a memorial service.



gional debate gripped the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives. In the end it voted 292-136 to ease several restrictions on the 1968 gun control Act.

The House maintained an 18-year-old ban on selling handguns across state boundaries.

The vote followed the usual intense lobbying by the powerful National Rifle Association and rival handgun control advocates, including Senator Edward Kennedy, Mrs Brady and dozens of uniformed policemen who roamed the

US frees Japanese held over war protest

Washington (AP) - A Japanese graduate student, detained by immigration officials on his return to New York from Holland because computer records showed that he had been arrested during a protest against the Vietnam war in Japan in 1968, has been allowed to remain in the US (Michael Binyon writes).

Bowing to a wave of public indignation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said it was no longer seeking to deport Mr Choichiro Yatai, who teaches psychology and Japanese at the State University of New York.

Spy hotline

Tacoma, Washington (UPI) - A free "spyline" telephone service introduced at army bases in North Carolina, Texas and Washington has already paid off with tips on suspected espionage activity, an intelligence official said.

Ships collide

Washington (AP) - One American died and two others are missing after a Yugoslav freighter and a small American fishing boat collided on Lake Michigan.

Moscow 'first'

Bern (Reuters) - Mr Pierre Aubert will pay the first official visit by a Swiss Foreign Minister to the Soviet Union next month.

Suspects held

West Berlin (Reuters) - Three people are in custody after a city-wide search for guerrilla suspects believed to be planning a bomb attack on two US military installations.

Bitter harvest

Begrade (Reuters) - Romania lost three million tonnes of wheat and barley, more than a quarter of this year's harvest, because of bad management, President Ceausescu said.

Test-tube 4

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - A 34-year-old woman gave birth to test-tube quadruplets after more than 16 years of infertility.

Truck kills 11

Izmir, Turkey (AFP) - Eleven people, including nine women, died when a speeding truck plunged into a ditch.

New satellite

Moscow (AFP) - A new Soviet satellite, Cosmos-1771, carrying equipment for studying space, has been successfully launched.

Moscow rules out Delegation fails in Peking trip

From Robert Gries, Peking

A Hong Kong delegation opposed to China's construction of the Daya Bay nuclear power station 42 miles north-east of the colony left Peking yesterday without a sign from the Government that it might consider their argument.

The 12-member delegation of the joint committee to shelve the Daya Bay nuclear plant, arrived here on Sunday but failed to get an opportunity to put their case directly to members of China's powerful State Council.

Japanese to dismantle experimental plant

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is to dismantle its first experimental nuclear reactor at a cost of about 10 billion yen (£43.5 million).

The work is expected to begin on September 1 and will take six years to remove a 12,500-kilowatt reactor which used British technology.

K2 survivor back to face amputations

Vienna - The two survivors of the K2 mountain tragedy, Herr Kurt Diemberger and Herr Willi Bauer, returned to Austria yesterday (Richard Bassen writes).

Herr Diemberger said he had slept well for the first time in weeks and that he was reconciled to losing some of his fingers and toes.

Repercussions of Chernobyl disaster

The National Farmers' Union believes that a conservative cost to British agriculture is in the region of £10 million.

The Foreign Office declined to comment on yesterday's announcement, although it is believed that lawyers are still seeking avenues within international law for passing the bill on to the Soviet Government.

British farmers

British farmers are unlikely to receive direct compensation from the Soviet Government in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster after an announcement yesterday by its Ambassador in London, Mr Leonid Zamyatin.

Mr Zamyatin said that independent experts had shown that radiation levels in Europe had not been high enough to cause serious damage.

Church rescue

Toulouse (AFP) - Peter Pachtet, aged 21, a British mountaineer practising for the Pyrenees, was rescued from the top of a church tower.

Sex register

Providence, Rhode Island (AP) - A man accused of running a prostitution ring involving students used the university's register as a recruiting catalogue, court documents claimed.

Navy's return

Singapore (Reuters) - Royal Navy ships on a world tour, headed by the carrier Illustrious, made an emotional return to the spot off Malaysia where the Prince of Wales and Repulse were sunk by Japanese aircraft.

Cabby threat

Dubai (Reuters) - Taxi drivers in the Gulf emirate of Dubai who do not dress "correctly" have been told they will lose their licences for two months.

Tobacco suit

Melbourne (Reuters) - A 38-year-old Melbourne woman won the right to sue Rothmans of Pall Mall and the American Cigarette Company for damages over the cancer which is killing her.

VIP arrest

Moscow (Reuters) - The former Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Vladimir Sushkov, has been arrested in connection with a smuggling scandal, Izvestia reported.

Aids tests

Helsinki (Reuters) - Finland is to introduce Aids tests for all pregnant women in the capital in a campaign to halt the spread of the killer disease.

Crime protest

La Unión, Spain (Reuters) - Three Civil Guards and a demonstrator were injured in a protest against street crime.

Deadly drink

Lisbon (Reuters) - Six Cape Verdean fishermen have died after drinking methyl alcohol from barrels netted off the Atlantic islands.

Cancer rally

Budapest - More than 8,000 cancer specialists from all over the world met in Budapest for the annual congress of the International Union Against Cancer.

Blow for Lange as poll shows big support for Anzus pact

From Richard Long, Wellington

New Zealand's Labour Government received a blow to its anti-nuclear policies yesterday when the Defence Inquiry Committee made public a poll showing 52 per cent of the public in favour of continued membership of the Anzus alliance.

New Zealand has effectively been drummed out of the tripartite alliance with the United States and Australia because of its refusal to accept visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered warships.

The review committee, set up by the Government last year to analyse public opinion on defence, recommended an enhanced bilateral defence relationship with Australia to compensate in part for the loss of an American connection. This would satisfy in part the 72 per cent of those polled who want collective security, and would not conflict with the 73 per cent who want the country to remain nuclear-free, the committee said.

The poll is the most detailed ever undertaken on defence issues. The Opposition leader, Mr Jim Bolger, said it showed a vote for realism and common sense, and that the Government had no mandate to take the country out of Anzus.

But Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, pointed to the 69 per cent of those polled who opposed visits by nuclear warships, citing this as support for his Government's policies.

The committee chairman, Mr Frank Corner, a former foreign affairs secretary, said

the committee did not urge a return to full Anzus membership because of the divisions this would bring to an already divided society. Instead it had opted for the "Hobson's choice" of an enhanced relationship with Australia.

But the committee chided the Government for "mistakes" in negotiating with the Americans over the warship visits. Future inquiries should precede rather than follow major policy changes, it said. Anzus had been "widely misrepresented" by those occupying "positions of high authority".

Mr Lange, who had demanded explanations for these comments, had his letters published as an addendum to the committee's report, along with its replies.

The poll found 37 per cent in favour of Anzus with nuclear ship visits, 44 per cent in favour of Anzus without nuclear ship visits, and 16 per cent opposed to Anzus.

The Government's problems came when the 44 per cent grouping made a choice between Anzus and no Anzus. The result gave the final 52-44 per cent vote in favour of the alliance. Newspapers here interpreted this as a vote for Anzus.

Mr Lange questioned the methodology involved in the second-choice option and claimed that the eight-point majority was inside the poll's margin for error. The pollsters promptly replied that the methodology was quite proper, and that the margin for error was only 2.5 per cent.

Iranians break up 'terrorist networks'

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran's internal security chief yesterday announced the break-up of several "terrorist networks" linked with Iraq, including one held responsible for a car bomb explosion in the holy city of Qom last week.

"Those who brought the bomb from Iraq and those who planted it in Qom have been arrested," the Information (Intelligence) Minister, Mr Muhammad Muhammad Rezaei, told Tehran radio.

Thirteen people were killed and 100 injured in Saturday's blast outside a Shia Muslim shrine in Qom.

Another car bomb killed 20 and injured at least 80 in a central Tehran square on Tuesday.

"The Iraqi intelligence system provides facilities and huge amounts of money to all counter-revolutionary groups... and they play their role in the bombings," Mr Rezaei said.

He said the same network was responsible for at least four previous explosions in Qom and one in Tehran.

Mr Rezaei said a plan by a different group to explode bombs at a Friday prayer meeting in Tehran and four economic centres last month was foiled and its members arrested, together with a third group involved in previous explosions in Tehran.



Mrs Aquino, left, unveiling a marker at Manila airport, where her husband died. On her left is Mrs Coretta King.

Memorial to murder that awoke a nation Aquino in tribute to her husband

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino led tens of thousands of Filipinos in observing yesterday the third anniversary of the murder of her husband, Benigno, by unveiling a granite marker at the airport tarmac where he was killed.

The 6 ft-long slab, bearing the silhouette likeness of his prostrate body, was imbedded at the spot where Mr Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino fell dead after being shot in the head, allegedly by a member of a military escort.

"The nation was awakened by that deafening shot," Mrs Aquino later told a huge crowd at Rizal Park in the city's centre. "Thanks to all of you, his offering of his life was not in vain."

Mrs Aquino and her family accompanied by Mrs Coretta King, widow of the assassinated American civil rights leader, Dr Martin Luther King, had earlier attended a memorial service at the Santo Domingo Church.

"It took three long years before we could see the fruits of Ninoy's sacrifice," the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, told 8,000 people who gave a standing ovation to the woman who ended the 20-year Marcos regime.

Chants of "Cory, Cory" erupted as the Rizal Park crowd was showered with

yellow confetti from two Air Force helicopters. Families came to the rally in yellow T-shirts waving balloons, flags and streamers in Mrs Aquino's campaign colour.

Peace talks: Mrs Aquino is making the first attempt in a decade to try to negotiate an end to a Muslim war in the southern Philippines. In 15 years of sporadic fighting, more than 60,000 people have been killed.

Mr Agapito Aquino, the President's brother-in-law, has flown to Saudi Arabia for preliminary peace talks beginning in Jeddah at the weekend with the chief Muslim rebel leader, Mr Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Mr Misuari, who is said to control a 5,000-strong rebel army, ordered a ceasefire two weeks ago. His chief international supporter, Colonel Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, has offered Mrs Aquino his assistance in ending the guerrilla war on the island of Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago.

As the President's special emissary, Mr Aquino said his top priority was to "convince the MNLF that the Government is sincere in its desire to find a lasting solution to the war in Mindanao" where most of the country's five million Muslims live.

Bank code of Marcos uncovered

Honolulu (AFP) - Mr Ferdinand Marcos, the ousted Philippine President, and his wife Imelda used an elaborate code to pass messages to overseas representatives about secret foreign bank accounts; it was reported here yesterday.

The Honolulu Advertiser said it had obtained copies of documents presented to the Philippines Commission on Good Government which contained details of these codes.

The paper said the documents, copies of which were sent to Mr Marcos at his exile home here, included descriptions of clandestine communications, codes and false names used when he was President.

These showed that they opened secret accounts with the Swiss Credit Bank in 1968, making deposits and withdrawals under the names William Saunders and Jane Ryan. If they wanted to make withdrawals from the accounts they sent a "happy birthday" message to a representative in Zurich, Switzerland.

This agent would then contact his representative in Hong Kong, who would then presumably travel to Manila for instructions. HONOLULU: Mr Marcos underwent a 40-minute cataract operation on his right eye, a spokesman for him said (Reuters reports).

US crowds flock to holy image

Fostoria, Ohio (UPI) - An image of Jesus Christ said to appear each sunset on the side of a storage tank near Toledo has drawn a nightly pilgrimage of the curious and the devout to a soybean-processing plant. The lifesize image of a long-haired, bearded man, clothed in a white robe, and the profile of a young child appear on the side of a 30 ft-high soybean oil storage tank owned by Archer Daniels Midland, witnesses say.

Company officials attributed the apparition to a combination of shadows, light and steam vapours from the soybean-processing plant.

On Wednesday night, hundreds of cars again lined Ohio Route 12 outside the plant, causing a traffic jam.

"It's a miracle," one person said. "Just look at the people. Everybody needs a miracle."

Hundreds of people, some with children in their arms and others on blankets, gathered in the ditches along the roadway to view the apparition, which witnesses say appears only after sunset.

"It's just rust on the tank," said a plant employee. The Rev James Bacik, a Roman Catholic theologian and pastor at the University of Toledo, said he believes natural causes are responsible for the image.

Ex-rebel leads new India state

Delhi (Reuters) - A tribal guerrilla leader who fought the Indian Government for more than 20 years was sworn in yesterday as Chief Minister of India's newest state.

The Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga, became Chief Minister of Mizoram as part of an agreement signed on June 30 to end the guerrilla war, the Press Trust of India said.

Under the agreement the state's ruling Congress (I) Party formed a coalition government with the MNF, with Mr Laldenga as Chief Minister pending new elections.

The pact ensured statehood for Mizoram, which was previously governed as a territory by the central Government. The statehood Bill was approved by Parliament in Delhi on August 5.

India's Home Minister, Mr Buta Singh, told Parliament before the Bill was passed that at least 575 of an estimated 700 guerrillas had handed in their weapons.

Curfew enforced: A strict curfew was enforced in the Gujarat city of Baroda to prevent violence between Hindus and Muslims after seven people were killed in the past 36 hours. The Press Trust of India said "an uneasy calm" prevailed in the city yesterday morning.

Baseball fever fires Japanese emotions

From David Watts, Tokyo

Only two things cut through the noise of late summer in Japan: the buzzing of cicadas and the tension of the annual senior high school baseball championship.

The sky is a uniform, polluted grey lid that traps beneath it temperatures in the 90s with humidity to match.

A few minutes' walk reduces clothes to a sodden mass. Here and there Japan's ubiquitous salarymen duck out of it into electrical shops to watch the high school final in progress.

There is nothing directly comparable in Britain. The metallic plunk of baseball on metal bat replaces that of leather on willow and for Japanese is just as emotive.

The closest parallel might be a national schoolboy Test match drawing teams from every corner of the country.

But the atmosphere of a Test match, even today, is quite unlike the sort of hysteria that boiled over yesterday when the championship went to Teiri, a high school from western Japan, for the first time in its 12 appearances among the last 49 at the Koshien stadium in Osaka.

At times it appears everyone is in tears, winners, losers and some of the spectators.

Anyone who thought a Japanese incapable of letting down his emotional guard could be forgiven for thinking the crowd yesterday was Latin rather than Oriental, were it not for the precision of the chanting.

It is a contest that leaves

hardly any Japanese untouched: not only are there young heroes battling for supremacy in a country that sets great store by disciplined team effort but they are all hometown boys.

The sweating salaryman goes back to his boyhood ambitions on the baseball diamond, the housewife to the days when she was in the stands cheering a boy-friend, or even cheerleading on the touchline in a brief orange uniform.

This year the 68th championship kept alive the samurai spirit through a young pitcher who carried on doggedly despite a painful elbow while the batter hit him all over the field.

But reminders of the discipline on which success is based were never far away: several players were dismissed from the contest and their managers resigned after they were caught smoking.

The final confrontation was suitably close for two teams who had fought their way through the starting field of 3,847 teams from Japan's 47 prefectures since the end of June.

Each prefecture sends one team to Koshien with the exceptions of Tokyo and Hokkaido, which send two, for a total of 49 teams. They arrived at the stadium on August 4 for the final, exhausting run-in to the moment yesterday when superb fielding and throwing by Teiri earned it a 3-2 victory.



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SPECTRUM

Jews who hate the Jews

A miniature 'holy war' provoked by Ultra-Orthodox Jews of different sects in Israel has more to do with money than the Old Testament, writes Ian Murray

In their big fur hats and striped Sunday coats, the most extreme Ultra-Orthodox Jews are known as "zebras". Their fellow Jerusalemites consider they are a bigger problem than the Arabs.

Recent opinion polls show that the aggressive behaviour of these determined enemies of Israel is seen as a real danger to the safety of the state. According to one poll, they are "unacceptable" to 67 per cent of the national population.

The Ultra-Orthodox community is also growing much faster, proportionately, than the less religious or secular Jews. There are now more than 85,000 of them among the 330,000 Jews in the city, and they have grown by 30,000 in the past decade. This means that they need to find housing away from their traditional quarters centred on the Mea She'arim district.

Fears that the Ultra-Orthodox will rise in force and impose their rules on everyday life has led to mass demonstrations against the building of a synagogue at French Hill, a modern suburb to the north-east of the city. Without a synagogue in walking distance, an Ultra-Orthodox Jew would not be able to live there.

Secular protection societies have been set up, protests have been organized and recently a mass demonstration was held at the Knesset, sponsored by the religious kibbutz movement, backed by the Chief Rabbis and addressed by President Chaim Herzog and Anatoly Shecharansky. The Soviet dissident told the crowd: "We have overcome the pogroms and fires from without. Now we must put out the fires from within."

The Chief Rabbis, though, did not attend. A mixed choir of religious and non-religious kibbutz members was due to sing there, and the leaders of the Orthodox community dared not be seen in such company. The Ultra-Orthodox have got the Chief Rabbis running scared.

It is wrong to classify all the Ultra-Orthodox as being the same. There are dozens of different groups, which adds to their extremism. Rafi Davara is the official at Jerusalem City Hall who has to referee between them. "They all compete", he explains. "They cannot allow anyone to be more extreme than they are, so they all keep with whoever makes the most demands."

The most extreme total no more than 5,000 and live in or around Mea She'arim. They are members of Neturai Karrah, who have developed a flair down the years for outrageous protests and actions which keep them at the forefront of public attention.

Their founder, Rabbi Amram Blau, once asked President Nixon to free the community from Israeli control. Followers have won exemption from national service, have refused to pay income tax, issue their own passports and have their own "foreign minister", a white-bearded rabbi from New Jersey called Moshe Hirsh, who has a brilliant flair for publicity.

They are in regular contact with the Palestine Liberation Organiza-



"Despite the tiny rooms, families of seven children are usual in Ultra Orthodox families. It is a very limited existence, especially for youngsters"

tion and recently received a thank-you letter from Yasser Arafat for expressing their condolences after Israel's bombing raid on the organization's Tunis headquarters last October.

They have prevented the building of a new football stadium for Jerusalem, and threw stones at so many cars using a road near their district on the Sabbath that a £15 million bypass had to be built. A freelance photographer used to be contacted by them every Friday evening and tipped off as to where the stone-throwing would be heaviest. His pictures of armed police charging into harmless-looking groups were bought by the "zebras"

and posted off to America, where they helped to raise sympathy and funds.

According to Rafi Davara, a main reason behind all the aggression is the need to raise money to feed the community. The men rarely work and the women cannot earn enough for survival on donations and, in some cases, on government money.

Neturai Karrah honours its principles, and members do not accept social security money from the state of Israel, which they do not acknowledge. Their financial needs are therefore even greater. This leads them into protests which fuel the publicity they need for fund-raising,

especially among conscientious Jews living overseas.

Although the group is tiny, its lead is followed by tens of thousands of Jews on many of the issues which it takes up. It wins support because of a deep feeling that the community stands by the religious ideals which helped Judaism to survive and led to the establishment of the state of Israel.

Among those influenced by Neturai Karrah are the small religious parties which have members in the Knesset. Keeping the religious parties happy has in turn become a preoccupation of the main parties, who know that they can never form their own government without this extra support.

The sale of pork, playing soccer on the sabbath and serving kosher food in the army all become national issues which a major political party must wrestle with if it is to stay in power. And although it may seem ridiculous to the outside world, the burning of bus shelters by the Ultra-Orthodox protesting at pictures of girls in swimsuits has to be taken seriously by the political parties.

According to Rafi Davara at City Hall, there is a further reason for the Ultra-Orthodox aggression over this. He believes that the pictures of the women represent a real danger to the small community, which is so protected from modern life.

The big pendulum clock looks down on the tiny square showing its motto in Hebrew and English. "This Torah clock is not under Zionist influence", it says. The clock has stopped, and time itself appears to have stood still around it for a century and more.

It stands atop a jeweller's shop at the corner of Ein Ya'acov Street facing a fluorescent orange poster proclaiming "Nazionism Is Racism". This is the heart of Mea She'arim, the Ultra-Orthodox citadel half-a-mile or so outside the old city walls, where the writ of Israeli law does not run, but where many of those arrested for defacing and burning Jerusalem bus shelters live.

The old walls round the district manage to keep out a great deal of the twentieth century, with the help of large numbers of posters. These urge residents to "kill the tax collectors", to refuse autopsies, and to make sure nobody enters the area immodestly dressed. Men must have their heads covered. Women must have skirts below the knee and high on



"From kindergarten at the age of three, boys spend at least 10 hours a day in study"

the neck, and show no arms above the elbow.

Inhabitants are mostly supporters of Neturai Karrah, an Aramaic phrase meaning "guardians of the city", founded 70 years ago by those who believe that Zionism is contrary to biblical teaching because there can be no Jewish state until

the coming of the Messiah. Content to live under Turkish and British rule, the group saw in Zionism a profanity which became a reality with the creation of Israel.

For this reason, the group encourages the PLO to bring back Arab rule. If that were to happen, they believe, the

Messiah would come quickly to save them, for there is no celestial urgency as long as Jerusalem is ruled by Jews.

In recent years, the group has become readier to resort to stone-throwing, arson and other violent methods to defend their way of life. For boys, that way begins when they enter the *heder*

(kindergarten) from the age of three to start learning simple Hebrew Bible texts. By the time they are seven, they are learning civil and ceremonial law in Aramaic in their first *yeshiva* (Bible school).

They stay there until their arranged marriages, at about the age of 18, when they enter their adult *yeshiva*, where they spend most of their rest of their lives in study. From the *heder* onwards, they spend at least 10 hours a day over their books.

Men do not work, and for the most part the women have to look after the children. Despite the tiny rooms and houses, families of seven children and more are usual.

Television is frowned on, it is rare to hear a radio, and a newspaper stall nearby has been burnt out more than once. The owner believes it is to stop newspapers being read as much to protest at any pictures of girls they might contain.

It is a very limited existence, especially for the young people, who have no real outlet for their normal energies beyond joining in demonstrations.

Advertisement for 'SATURDAY Portfolio Gold' featuring a portrait of Paul McGann as Toplis. Text includes '£12,000 to be won', 'Tearaway Toplis', and 'Can you always get your copy of The Times?'.

Advertisement for 'Carnival of the heart and soul' at the Notting Hill carnival. Text describes the carnival's origins, the 'brass' bands, and the 'Wonderful joy is of the essence for Notting Hill revelers'. Includes a photo of a carnival scene.

I sold it through the grapevine

Soundalike singers with yesterday's songs are selling everything from jeans to cars to beefburgers, as advertisers discover the power of rock and pop

Pop music sells—and not just records. For years, advertisers have recognised the potency of cheap music as a hidden persuader. But now the ad-music industry is taking off. The whole history of pop and rock is being harvested.

One of the centres of this new industry is in Islington, north London. There, with all the perfection expected in a recording studio, the voice of Kate Robbins, a cousin of Paul McCartney, snaps and whippers from gigantic speakers. Her 30-second track features a threatening rhythm and strutting, contemptuous vocals in the manner of Grace Jones. It is not immediately apparent that Ms Robbins is having hair conditioner.

The soundtrack for a new Cream Silk commercial is being mixed. Listening with a laid-back intensity are Karl Jenkins and Mike Ratledge, members of Soft Machine until its demise four years ago and now the most spectacularly influential

bands discreetly revealed their O-levels or better. Jenkins points out that he has a classical music background.

But rock, in all its variations, is the dominant form in their work. At first this seems bizarre—why should ancient soul classics sell jeans to teenagers? In the past every previous new musical wave usually consigned the previous wave to oblivion.

What has happened is that with ageing rockers still popular, vastly increased air time and the bland qualities of most of today's music, the young can recognise music from the past 30 years.

Pop and rock find their way into ads in a variety of ways. Coca-Cola's worldwide hit "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" in the early 1970s came from an almost unknown song called "True Love and Apple Pie" which the company bought in to use as a radio ad.

In other cases the lyrics are changed to fit the product.



Jean genius: Sixties serenade for Levi lover in a laundrette

- SOUND INVESTMENTS: Coca Cola: I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing/New Seekers British Caledonian: California (Caledonia) Girls/Beach Boys Edam cheese: Great Balls of Fire (Cheese)/Jerry Lee Lewis-Pirelli tyres: Riders on the Storm/The Doors DHL couriers: Ain't No Mountain High Enough/Diana Ross Farleys rusks: Wake Up Little Susie (Snooty/Every Brothers Wimpy burgers: Come on Over to My Place/Writers Youngs sea food: The Young(s) Ones/Chris Richards National Westminster: Pinball Wizard/The Who Rowntrees jelly: Shakin' All Over/Johnny Kidd The Guardian: Puppet on a String/Sandie Shaw British Rail: Every Breath You Take/The Police Bassetts jelly babies: What do you want (Adam Faith Renault 5: Speedy Gonzalez/Pat Boone Eucryl toothpaste: Tobacco Road/Nashville Teens



Rocking back to happiness: from left, Sandie Shaw, the Everly Brothers and Adam Faith, golden oldies dusted off

producers of advertising music. They have been responsible for the "Wonderful World" and "I Heard It Through The Grapevine" recreations which transformed Levi jeans. More recently they backed the Renault 21 ad with Jack Bruce singing "I Feel Free."

It was clear from the beginning that using the original Sam Cooke and Marvin Gaye records would cost too much. So Jenkins and Ratledge had to produce exact replicas down to the recording hiss. They hired old-fashioned valve equipment to duplicate the production techniques of the originals. For "I Feel Free" their rock contacts enabled them to employ the original singer—Bruce—but with a new and out quite identical arrangement.

They are a taciturn pair. Now aged 41 and 42, they are both heavily moustachioed and long-haired in the manner of the Woodstock Generation, and they are both instantly defensive at any suggestion that advertising is an activity inferior to rock 'n' roll or indeed to anything else. And, just like in the old days when "progressive"

frequently with excruciating results—as with British Caledonian's use of "California Girls" as "Caledonian Girls" or Edam Cheese's downright bizarre "Great Balls of Cheese".

But rewriting tends to devalue the impact of the recognisable song. It seems to be more potent to retain the original more or less intact. Last year, for example, Pirelli made tyres seem haunting and fascinating with a recreation of The Doors' "Riders on the Storm" and DHL is selling a delivery service with a version of The Supremes' "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Elsewhere, Farleys Rusks has taken on "Wake Up Little Susie", Concorde Wine is using "Let the Good Times Roll" and Wimpy is selling burgers with "Come on Over to My Place".

An advanced form of this type of ad has been used by Renault, British Rail, Bassetts and Eucryl. They sell respectively the Renault 5, train tickets, jelly babies and toothpaste by stringing-together snatches of re-created pop songs.

Bryan Appleyard © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1986

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1035. Includes a crossword grid and lists of clues for Across and Down.

THE ARTS: 2

Cinema: David Robinson reviews a legendary film released in full at last
Visconti's magnificent obsession

Ossessione (PG)
 Renoir 2

Highlander (15)
 Warner West End
 (from August 29)

Target (15)
 Leicester Square
 Theatre

It has taken 44 years for *Ossessione* — Visconti's first film and a landmark in cinema history — to achieve a commercial release in this country. From time to time since the Fifties there have been National Film Theatre screenings, but these were generally the mutilated versions that went on release after the film's initial suppression by the fascist authorities in 1942. The version at the Renoir is intact at 140 minutes.

Visconti and his co-writers (Mario Alicata, Antonio Pietrangeli, Gianni Puccini and Giuseppe de Santis; Moravia also did some revision) consciously intended the film as a manifesto, a demonstration against the bland, approved escapism of the so-called "white telephone" cinema. The major literary influence on the young subversives was the verismo of the Sicilian writer Giovanni Verga, and Visconti's first plan was an adaptation of Verga's *Graciana's Mistress*. This script however was returned by Mussolini's censor marked "No more bandits!". Adaptations from foreign

originals seemed to have a better chance of approval and, after trying treatments of novels by Alain-Fournier, Herman Melville, Julian Green and Thomas Mann, Visconti settled on James Cain's *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, which had already been filmed before the war in France.

The essential story is unchanged from the novel: Gino, an unemployed drifter, arrives at a highway pull-in and is given work by the owner, an amiable but gross middle-aged man married to a young and beautiful wife, Giovanna. Drawn into an obsessive love-affair, the young couple murder the husband to get him out of the way.

Beyond this the film departs significantly from the novel. Cain develops an artificial notion of providential justice. Visconti's film finds that tragedy and destruction lie in the characters of the people themselves, in human vulnerability to passion and human compulsion to betrayal. Just as the couple betray the husband by murdering him, so their own downfall will be effected by betrayal.

Less concerned than Cain with the mechanisms of the police investigation, Visconti introduces an entirely new and slightly mystifying element with the character of Il Spagnolo, a romantically inclined market huckster. To the extent that the codes of the time permitted, Visconti shows Il Spagnolo as a victim of obsessive love for Gino just as Gino is possessed by Giovanna. The elaborate pattern of desire and betrayal is completed when Il Spagnolo, finally spurned by Gino, denounces him to the police — a crucial scene missing from

every known print of the film until this one.

The motivation and conflicts of the characters are developed with subtle complexity, but the real novelty of the film in its time was the relation of the people to their setting. "I wanted, above all, to tell stories of living people among things, not of things *per se*." It is Visconti's use of locations in the Po Delta and Ancona, the stark unlovely realism of the seedy pull-in with its unwashed dishes and unmade bed, the dust roads in the flat, unvaried landscape, that have earned *Ossessione* its reputation as the seminal moment of Italian Neo-Realism.

Visconti's approach to realism comes less from Verga than the pre-war French cinema of Carné, Duvivier, Chénel and above all Renoir, with whom from 1936 he had worked as assistant. (Mira Liehm's indispensable new study of Italian cinema since this film, *Passion and Defiance*, cites a fascist newspaper of 1943 which condemns *Ossessione* for "imitating the French kind of realism that must not be transferred to Italy: the movie is a concoction of repulsive passions, humiliations and decay.") It is currently fashionable to question the film's place as the source of Neo-Realism, since the socio-political preoccupations later characteristic of the school are absent — not

surprisingly given the climate of the times as it was Visconti, Alicata and Puccini were imprisoned by the secret police during shooting. The film's influence upon both Rossellini and De Sica is however undeniable.

The triumph of *Ossessione* is that it reappears now not as an archive revival but as a film with all its power intact. None of the principal performances has dated. Gino is the handsome, sexy, 24-year-old Massimo Girotti. As Giovanna, Clara Calamai, a popular star in *femme fatale* roles, seizes the opportunity of a more rewarding character. There is, too, a startling and affecting performance, in the role of a young prostitute, by Dhia Cristiani, a gifted actress who later chose to restrict her work to dubbing other players' voices.

The hard fact that today's commercial cinema has to face is that the great power of patronage lies with the young teenage audience, and that they call the tune. *Highlander*, which had its premiere at the Edinburgh Film Festival last night and opens in London today week, is symptomatic of this economic reality, one of a growing group of films in which huge resources of money, technology and craftsmanship are lavished on scenarios more suited to strip cartoons.

Highlander is a mishmash of synthetic mythology, about

a group of immortal beings, variously representative of good and evil, who can only be destroyed by beheading. They meet from time to time through the ages, to fight for the prize of universal intelligence, which must never pass to Kurgan, the Evil, whose neck is held together with safety-pins after repeated attempts on his immortality ("Who wondrous live freva?" asks a pertinent Queen song on the sound-track).

The sword-fighting shifts from 16th-century Scotland to 1986 New York, with little rhyme or reason; but — to show that we can do this sort of thing as well as the Americans — the photography (Gerry Fisher) is spectacular and the special effects (the credit titles list an army of wizards) are astonishing and faultless. The film is calculated for an audience which demands only an unremitting succession of visual effects, backed by an overpowering sound-track. The director, Russell Mulcahy, comes appropriately from the world of pop video.

The most baffling special effect of all is how the Neanderthal face of Christopher Lambert, who plays the Highlander hero, is maintained in a constant state of three days' beard-growth. Presumably this is where the skill of the credited "prosthetic make-up artist" comes in. It is hard to know what



Performances undated even now: Massimo Girotti and Dhia Cristiani in *Ossessione*

possessed the distinguished Arthur Penn to take on such stuff as Howard Berk's and Don Petersen's script for *Target*. The initial premise is novel: when a Dallas businessman and his distanced teenage son take off in search of the wife, kidnapped during a European vacation, the son discovers that his seemingly boring, conformist Dad has a

hair-raising past with the CIA, which now begins to catch up on them. After this it collapses into the corniest conventions of espionage melodrama — European streets packed with sinister pursuers, crazy chases, crazier coincidences, *femmes fatales*, a vengeful, wheelchair-bound mastermind, double and triple

agents, and a CIA boss you know from the start is the real villain because he acts so badly. Gene Hackman and Gayle Hunnicutt play the parents; the worst thing is that Matt Dillao, fast growing to be one of the best young Hollywood actors, is given a role so dumb that it makes Charlie Chan's Number One Son look like Einstein.



Mara Zampieri's dominating Lady Macbeth

Opera in Europe
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Macbeth
 Théâtre Antique,
 Orange

New York, confirmed his real quality, discernible in his *Boris* at Orange last year, with a reading which was taut, vigorous and incisive.

On stage, the performance was dominated by an extraordinarily fine assumption of Lady Macbeth by the Italian soprano Mara Zampieri. It was characterized by judicious use of a powerful chest register, together with the ability (also an attribute of one of her illustrious predecessors in the role, Margherita Grandi) to manage a finely-graded diminuendo, fitting the voice down to a slender thread of sound. Zampieri possesses a formidable vocal technique, allied to real histrionic ability, so that her Lady Macbeth was a creation of impressive energy and authority who, very properly, took complete charge of the proceedings. In the interval it was announced that she was suffering from an unspecified malaise (it could easily have been exhaustion from the heat, as she had not spared herself) and, although there was no sign of an vocal impairment, she elected not to attempt the high D flat at the end of the sleepwalking scene.

Among the other rewards of the evening were a thoughtful and detailed characterization of the title-role by the ever-reliable Piero Cappuccelli; a solidly-sung Banquo by John Tomlinson; splendidly sonorous work by the Chœur National Bulgare Svetoslav Obretnov; responsive playing by the Orchestre National de France; and, finally, a remarkably robust and ringing Macduff from the Japanese tenor Taro Ichihara.

Peter Orr

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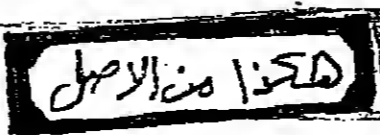
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BALMORAL CASTLE August 21: By command of The Queen, Mr Stanley Martin (First Assistant Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) this morning called upon His Excellency Monsieur...

Birthdays today

Mr P.H.B. Allison, 62; Mr Marc Bohart, 60; Lady (Edgar) Bonham-Carter, 93; Mr Ray Bradbury, 66; Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, 79; Dr Rob Buckman, 38; Major-General Earl Cathcart, 67; Sir Richard Catling, 74; Professor Sir Cyril Astley Clarke, 79; Mr Steve Davids, 29; Mr Somerset de Chair, 73; Miss Margaret Douglas, 52; Baroness Ewart-Biggs, 57; Mr Max Hebditch, 49; Mr Donald MacLeary, 49; Sir James Menier, 65; Sir Anthony Tuke, 66.

Liverpool's prize

A formerly derelict group of dock warehouses was awarded Europe's top prize for architectural conservation yesterday. The Albert Dock complex in Liverpool has won the European Development Corporation's Gold Medal and European Prize for the Preservation of Historic Monuments...

European Bridge trial selections

The four leaders in the trials to select the team to represent Great Britain in the European Bridge Championship next year continue at the Young Chelsea Bridge Club, London, with a double round robin. The team Sunday which finishes on Sunday a clear 15 points at the head of the table earns automatic selection with a third pair to be chosen by the British Bridge League selectors...

Marriages

Mr J.H. Andrew and Miss J.L. Small The marriage took place on Saturday, August 16, at St Peter's Church, Westminster, of Mr James Hector Andrew, son of Mr A.H. Andrew and the late Mrs Andrew, of Byways, Hertford, and Miss Jane Louise Small, daughter of Colonel and Mrs J.L.M. Small, of Berkswich-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. The Rev Philip Whitehead officiated, assisted by the Right Rev Edward Norman.

Latest wills

Lady Greta Lyons, of Wappenbury Hall, Wappenbury, Warwickshire, widow of Sir William Lyons, founder of Jaguar Cars, left estate valued at £4,433,491 net. Mrs Jeannie Fettes Hoskins, of Kingsway Court, Queens Gardens, Hove, East Sussex, who through her agency Celebrity Service became an informative part of the London social scene, left £105,985 net. She bequeathed £1,000 to the Saints and Sinners Club.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Ian Pove to be director of the Gas Consumers' Council, which comes into being tomorrow. Legal Mr Justice Bingham to be a Lord Justice of Appeal.

Apothecaries' Society

The following have been elected officers of the Apothecaries' Society for the ensuing year. Master, Mr W.F. Southwood; Senior Warden, Colonel F.G. Neale.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BRITHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM 24 a line - 15p VAT (minimum 3 lines) Announcements, authorized by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to: THE TIMES PO BOX 484 Virginia Street London E1 9XS or telephoned by telephone subscribers only to: 01-481 3624

Science report

War and peace role for revolutionary laser beam

Since the first laser flashed to life 25 years ago, none has come along that is more radical in design than the free electron laser, FEL. Its unique features endow the device with great power and flexibility. A dozen free electron lasers operate in laboratories around the world, but researchers are racing to exploit their potential and to build others that are bigger and better. Rapid advances are pushing them to the forefront of efforts to create intense light beams for a variety of revolutionary uses in medicine, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, electronics, energy production, and beam weapons.

O level maths for boy, eight

An eight year old primary school boy who loves Donald Duck cartoons, Eaid Blyton books heard yesterday that he had become the youngest pupil in Britain to pass O level mathematics. John Adams sailed through the examination to get a B grade and is now studying to take A level maths, probably next year. One of seven children, from the Leicestershire village of Asfordby, near Melton Mowbray, he passed the examination a year earlier than Ruth Lawrence, another maths "genius" who gained a First in maths at Oxford University at the age of 13.



John Adams, aged eight, yesterday, after hearing he had passed O level maths with a grade B.

OBITUARY

HERMIONE BADDELEY Mistress of revue who never lost talent for straight acting



Hermione Baddeley in two phases of her life: in 1935 (left), and in the role of Alderman Mrs Beddows in the 1974 television adaptation of South Riding.

Hermione Baddeley, actress, who died on August 19 at the age of 79, began her career as a girl of precocious dramatic power, in her early teens, and went on to be an unexampled artist in the flowering of intimate revue. There she was irresistible, with a virtuosity never richer than in the Herbert Farjeon productions at the Little Theatre during the late 1930s. She knew everything about rapid make-up and the use of properties. Though she held to the Farjeon texts, in later years she could be unpredictable. A partner, Henry Kendall, recalled that again and again he had to stand shaking with laughter, his back to the audience, hoping for some cue that would return him to the script.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.G.D. Ogilvie and Mrs N.L.J. Stevens The engagement is announced between James Scott, son of Mr and Mrs J.P. Lambert of Lincoln, West Sussex, and Natasha, younger daughter of the late Mr H.J. Moor and of Mrs Moor, of Shaftesbury, Dorset. The marriage will be taking place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

PROFESSOR BRIAN COLLINGE

Professor Brian Collinge, who held a personal chair in the department of physics at Liverpool University from 1970 to 1982, died on August 8. He was 64. Collinge was born in Southampton on September 27, 1921, and following education at the local grammar school, served during the war in the Signals Research and Development Establishment, Ministry of Supply.

DR ERIC DINGWALL THE YEYELUA OF IFE

Your admirable obituary notice of Dr E. J. Dingwall (August 14) is not altogether correct in stating that he never married. Of his first wife, Doris Dunn, whom he married in 1918, he once remarked that he lost her in the London Underground about 1930 and had not seen her since. With his second wife, Dr Margaret Davies, he passed in the 1960s and 1970s what were undoubtedly the happiest years of his life in their beautiful home at Crowhurst, Sussex.

University news

Cambridge Election Prof O Bell, Henry Ford II Professor of Psychology, has been elected to the post of Professor of Psychology for the year 1986-87. The election was held on August 14. The other candidates were Prof J. R. Hayes, Prof D. G. L. Jones, and Prof R. S. Wyer Jr.

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FRIDAY AUGUST 22 1986

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 90 Share 1267.1 (-1.3) FT-SE 100 1606.8 (+2.2) Bargains 20734 USM (Datastream) 125.39 (+0.69) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4955 (-0.0090) W German mark 3.0568 (-0.0244) Trade-weighted 71.7 (-0.2)

Investment inquiry The operations of McDonald's Wheelers of Canterbury, Kent, a collapsed investment supermarket, will be investigated by Kent police...

Payout jump Johnson Group Cleaners, Britain's largest drycleaners, announced interim pretax profits up 5 per cent to £4 million on turnover down 3 per cent to £44 million...

Profits rise Garfunkels, the restaurant chain, reported pretax profits of £1.5 million for the six months to the end of June, compared with £1.2 million for the same period last year...

Hotels' £6.3m Queens Moat Houses, the hotel chain, reported interim pretax profits up 35 per cent to £6.3 million...

YK Pao goes Sir Yue-Kong Pao has resigned as advisor to the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation board...

Paribas letting Ladbroke Group has let the former Debenhams and Freebody headquarters in Wigmore Street, West End...

Hotels hit A shortage of American visitors has had a severe impact on hotels' summer trading, the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries annual meeting was told yesterday...

Tempus 18 Foreign Exch 19 Wall Street 18 Traded Ops 19 Commodities 20 Unit Traders 20 Stock Market 19 Commodities 20 Co News 19 USM Prices 20 Money Markets 19 Share Prices 21

MARKET SUMMARY STOCK MARKETS MAIN PRICE CHANGES INTEREST RATES CURRENCIES

Bank dampens hope of early cut in base rate

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Hopes of an early cut in base rates after the overnight reduction in the US discount rate faded yesterday following a clear signal against such a move by the Bank of England. The dollar and the pound both fell when it became clear that the authorities in West Germany and Japan were in no hurry to follow the US Federal Reserve Board in cutting rates...

Small fall in UK external assets

By Our Economics Correspondent

Britain's net external assets, which have increased sharply since exchange controls were abolished in 1979, slipped slightly last year, the first fall after five successive big rises. External assets exceeded liabilities by £80.4 billion at the end of last year, according to the annual Balance of Payments Pink Book, published today by the Central Statistical Office...

Growth is still slow

The latest cyclical indicators for the British economy confirm that growth over the past 12 months has been sluggish. But official statisticians say it is not possible to tell whether this slow growth will persist. The four leading indicators display a somewhat conflicting picture...

Profit-taking ends 11 days of share boom in Tokyo

Shares on the Tokyo stock exchange fell back yesterday, the first decline in 11 days of booming prices and volumes. The morning session saw a fall of 297.1 yen from Wednesday's record high as profits were taken on electric power and monetary stocks...

Low oil price steadies US inflation

American consumer prices were unchanged last month as lower energy prices kept inflation in check, the Labour Department announced yesterday. The good performance came after two successive months when consumer prices increased...

USSR shake-up for Gatt

The Soviet Union looks like galvanizing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by its formal request to participate in its round of talks which began at Punta del Este, Uruguay, on September 15. Russia has had informal contacts with members of the 92-nation organization since the end of 1982...

EEC suspends sugar action

The European Community's Competition Directorate has suspended interim action against British Sugar, threatened after complaints by Napier Brown, the sugar merchant. A warning of punitive measures was given by the EEC after Napier Brown told the European Commission last year that British Sugar had abused its dominant position on the British market...



At Hamleys: Mr Peter... left, Sir Philip Harris and Brian Griffin (photograph: Graham Wood)

Harris buys a toyshop for £30m

The Burton Group yesterday sold the world's most famous toy shop, Hamleys of Regent Street, for £30 million to Harris Queensway, the carpets and furniture retailer headed by Sir Philip Harris. Burton Group acquired Hamleys a year ago as part of its £560 million purchase of Debenhams...

Maxwell buys more of Extel

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Daily Mirror, has increased his stake in Extel, the beleaguered business and sporting information group, from 23 per cent to 26.4 per cent. He intends to continue buying until he reaches the maximum permissible 29.9 per cent...

BET makes two final bids

BET, the industrial services conglomerate, yesterday raised its bids for HAT and Brengreen to £111 million and £32.2 million respectively and declared them both final. It also announced that it was acquiring from Hawley Group its 8.6 per cent stake in HAT and its 27.1 per cent stake in Brengreen...

FIMBRA B | S | J BERKELEY ST JAMES'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT LTD. I INCREASED MY FUTURE PENSION ON LEAVING SERVICE FROM £5,000 P.A. TO £130,000 P.A.

STOCK REPORT REPORT

Early rises cut back but oils and buildings shine

Share prices made a bright start yesterday, cheered by the US Federal Reserve's decision to cut its discount rate by half a point to the lowest level for nine years. However, the buoyant mood was short-lived as the Bank of England quickly dampened the enthusiasm by giving a warning that it was not prepared to sanction an early cut in domestic rates at present. So, although most dealers now expect a reduction sometime next month - perhaps after Japan or West Germany reduce their rates - early gains were soon trimmed as investors decided to stay on the sidelines in front of the long, holiday weekend. The FT 30 Share Index slipped by 1.3 points to 1,267.1, while the broader-based FT-SE 100 index closed 2.2 points up at 1,608.8. But there were still some useful rises in one or two sectors. Oils continued to benefit from the brighter outlook for crude prices. BP advanced 10p to 635p and Shell 7p to 885p. Century Oils, supported by a favourable circular, climbed 13p to 139p. Building shares made good progress on hopes that mortgage rates will soon be reduced again. Among the best were Costain, at 55p, and Tarmac,

at 47p, both up 8p. Stores were firm at first, but failed to hold the gains. Boots fell 7p to 21p, still concerned with the growing opposition to the proposed acquisition of Flint. Burton Group added 2p to 308p following confirmation of the sale of Hanleys for £30 million. The buyer, Harris Queensway, fell 6p to 232p. Breweries were overshadowed by a rather gloomy statement on current trading from Scottish & Newcastle, mainly because of the reduction in American tourists. S. N. which earlier this week made a bid for the Midlands-based Home Brewery, lost 6p to 180p. On the takeover scene, increased and final offers from BET for HAT Group and Brengreen boosted the shares. HAT, at 139p, and Brengreen, at 48.5p, both added 3p, while Hawley Group, which accepted the higher terms for its own holdings, added 2p to 106p. BET gave up 2p to 408p. London & Midland Industrials was a late feature at 207p, up 10p, on talk of a bid from Williams Holdings. Elsewhere in firm engineers, TI Group, at 47p, jumped by 34p on unsubstantiated reports that Citicorp was about to mount a consortium offer, involving Hoover of the US.

Malaysia moves fast to buoy ringgit

Bank Negara, the Malaysian central bank, has moved quickly to stop the fall of the Malaysian ringgit, which has been hit by rumours of a devaluation and heavy selling by overseas banks. But bankers here say that the worst is not yet over. Other sources say that the government is likely to resist any attempt to depress the currency further. Bank Negara does not normally comment on its currency transactions but it is believed to have bought between 80 million and 100 million ringgits, possibly through the London branches of Malaysian banks. It was reacting to an escalation of the pressure that has plagued the ringgit for months, after a large sale of Malaysian currency in London last week by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. Many overseas banks, including at least one in Australia, were no longer quoting a rate for the ringgit, and this added to the softening effect on the currency, bankers said. The central bank's prompt action is reported to have caught the Hong Kong Bank short of ringgit, causing a loss of between \$300,000 and \$400,000, according to market sources in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bank Negara had been attempting to stabilize the currency at 2.58 ringgit to the US dollar. But a week ago, the dollar was as high as 2.70 ringgit. Its action has brought prices to about 2.59 ringgit. Bank Negara took the market by surprise, especially when it orchestrated the move on a public holiday last Friday. But it has hindered speculation in the past by ordering local banks to limit currency swaps with offshore banks, and it was this that caught Hong Kong Bank short of ringgit. The ringgit has lost considerable ground against major currencies in the past year, falling about 40 per cent against the mark, about 45 per cent against the yen, 27 per cent against sterling and, in the past two years, about 10 per cent against the US dollar. Rumours of a devaluation, coupled with the high Malaysian commodity prices, have been partly responsible for the pressure. But these have not been helped by increasing worries internationally over Malaysia's stewardship of its fiscal affairs. The latest is an investigation into 24 of the country's 34 deposit taking co-operative societies, with reports indicating that the problem could be more serious than was originally thought.

COMMENT Tokyo and Bonn hold key to cheaper money

For the second time this summer, the United States has thrown down the interest rate gauntlet. And for the second time, it appears, the gesture has been ignored. Yesterday, in what was the best display of co-ordinated international action on interest rates for many a month, the West German central bank, the Bank of Japan and the Bank of England all decided to pretend that the US discount rate cut had not happened. The Federal Reserve Board, in deciding to trim the discount rate cut from 6 to 5.5 per cent late on Wednesday, again achieved a timing surprise even though a reduction had been expected at some stage. Most analysts were looking for a cut next month, possibly preceded by interest rate moves elsewhere. The trigger came on Tuesday in the form of the revised second-quarter gross national product figures, showing an annualized rise of 0.6 per cent. They coincided with the Federal Open Market Committee meeting, so the prompt rate cut looks logical enough, although if every change in the discount rate were so timed it would be a dull world. So what happens next? The comparative lack of reaction to the discount rate cut in the foreign exchange markets, with the dollar somewhat weaker against yen and mark, but stronger against a pound affected by the gloomy projections of the National Institute, suggests that, initially, the United States has failed. The strategy of US Treasury Secretary James Baker and Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul Volcker - to bump Japan and Germany into expansionary action - clearly requires the co-operation of the foreign exchange markets. This is why, in order to work, changes in the US discount rate need to do more than take people by surprise on timing. Exchange rates are not likely to move if the prospect of a cut some time has already been allowed for. To some operators, the latest drop in the discount rate, to a nine-year low, is the end of the story. The United States can increase the verbal pressure for reductions elsewhere but it has used up the weapons in its own interest rate armory. This may not necessarily be so. Because Wednesday's rate cut came early, it could leave room for another reduction next month, as we approach both the first anniversary of the historic Plaza meeting of the Group of Five, and the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund. Japan and Germany may be willing to hold out against rate cuts now, and argue in terms of such factors as their own domestic monetary targets. But, come next month - when finance ministers and central bankers are faced with a trip to Washington and face to face browbeating - the mood may be rather different. And Britain? The stock market's early excitement yesterday gave way to mild depression when it became clear that the room for cuts in base rates, high as they are, is limited by continuing exchange rate weakness. The economy appears to be so becalmed that even a fair wind from across the Atlantic is insufficient to get things moving. The best hope, here too, is cheaper money in Germany and Japan.

GPI offer

GPI Leisure Corporation, whose main investment is a 49 per cent stake in the Aston Hotel Trust, which owns 267 Australian hotels, is offering 100 million ordinary shares to the public at 1.50p each, in one of Australia's biggest public flotations. Alexander Laing and Cruickshank is handling 30 per cent of the issue in London.

EQUITIES

Table listing various equities such as Anglo Saxon (150p), Anglo Saxon (150p), Anglo Saxon (150p) with their respective prices and changes.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues such as Hughes Food (20p), Lloyds Bank (100p), Lloyds Bank (100p) with their respective prices and changes.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues such as BSA GP N/P, Barber & Debon F/P, Cityvision N/P with their respective prices and changes.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures data including Three Month Sterling, Six Month Sterling, and various interest rate futures.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies including Sterling, Dollar, and others.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table showing traditional options data for various stocks and indices.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies and terms.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table showing London traded options data for various stocks and indices, including call and put options.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Table showing money market and gold data including rates for various currencies and gold prices.

COMPANY NEWS

Reporting a full-year loss, Dale Electric International, which is based at Fife, North Yorkshire, is halving its final dividend to 1.5p. This cuts the total payment for the 12 months to April 27 last from 4.5p to 3p. Dale tumbled into a pre-tax loss of £960,000, compared with a profit of £544,000 last time. Turnover edged up from £36.1 million to £37.95 million. There is a loss per share of 10.1p, against earnings of 3.17p. The board explains that having achieved record results to 1985, Cattle's (Holdings), a financial services group, based in Hull, Humberside, continues to push ahead. To the first half of this year, profits expanded from £1.1 million to £1.5 million on turnover up from £43.46 million to £44.1 million. With earnings per share up from 1.50p to 2.12p, the interim dividend is being lifted from 0.72p to 0.92p. The board is confident about prospects for the rest of the year. The downturn occurred almost entirely in the generating set activities in the Dale Electric of Great Britain offshoot and in Thailand where there were total losses of £1.6 million, of which half related to bad debts (in both areas) and to foreign exchange losses in Thailand. Big efforts are in hand to control working capital requirements. The problems in Dale Electric GB and Thailand apart, the nine other group companies increased their profits. The group is tackling its less areas energetically and the medium and long-term view is positive. Dale Electric GB showed a profit for the first quarter of the current year, a momentum which the board believes can be maintained for the full year. The Thai operation is now trading positively. DEWEY WARREN HOLDINGS: Half-year to June 30. Net brokerage income £1.32 million (£1.56 million). Pretax profit £260,000 (£195,000). Earnings per share 1.3p (10.1p). The board gives a warning that the full-year pretax profit on ordinary activities will be less than for the first six months. WERE DRAIVE: Six months to June 30. Interim

TSB's £12m City giveaway

Lazard Brothers yesterday unveiled the long-awaited underwriting terms for the Trustee Savings Bank offer. They should give potential investors cause for cynical reflection. It is no revelation that the City looks after itself, but in this case the TSB appears to be offering an entirely unnecessary handout to financial institutions for the sake of observing City traditions. Lazard has had to make the best of the TSB board's insistence that the issue must be underwritten. That has been whittled down to between 75 and 80 per cent of the issue being fully underwritten, (excluding the loyalty bonus shares to be given later) while the total commission has been cut to 1.75 per cent from the usual 2 per cent on issues of this size. The total figure breaks down into 0.3 per cent for the merchant bank underwriters - Lazard always accepted it would have to take a discount - while the stockbrokers will take 0.125 per cent. The usual 1.25 per cent sub-underwriting commission has been cut to 0.75 per cent. Lazard calculates that in all, assuming the issue is worth £1.25 billion, the underwriting costs will come out at less than £12 million, rather than the £25 million at normal rates for 100 per cent underwriting cover. But that does not answer the question: why does the offer need to be underwritten at all? Since there is (according to the Government) no owner, none will lose if the issue is not fully subscribed. At the same time, with around 2.5 million public inquiries about the offer, it is clear that public interest is in ferment. Both the bank and the Government have made it clear that the issue will be attractively priced to bring in small investors, so the danger of under-subscription looks even more remote. Underwriters must be falling over themselves to get in on this one. It must look like money for nothing. On the other hand, one might reasonably ask, who cares? Again, because no one owns the TSB, only incoming shareholders theoretically lose if a little money is spent on some needless underwriting. And out of £1.25 billion, a piffling £12 million is not likely to be begrudged. By spending it the TSB may gain some useful friends in the City where mutual back-scratching is the traditional way to do business.

Dale Electric plunges into loss and cuts final dividend

Reporting a full-year loss, Dale Electric International, which is based at Fife, North Yorkshire, is halving its final dividend to 1.5p. This cuts the total payment for the 12 months to April 27 last from 4.5p to 3p. Dale tumbled into a pre-tax loss of £960,000, compared with a profit of £544,000 last time. Turnover edged up from £36.1 million to £37.95 million. There is a loss per share of 10.1p, against earnings of 3.17p. The board explains that having achieved record results to 1985, Cattle's (Holdings), a financial services group, based in Hull, Humberside, continues to push ahead. To the first half of this year, profits expanded from £1.1 million to £1.5 million on turnover up from £43.46 million to £44.1 million. With earnings per share up from 1.50p to 2.12p, the interim dividend is being lifted from 0.72p to 0.92p. The board is confident about prospects for the rest of the year. The downturn occurred almost entirely in the generating set activities in the Dale Electric of Great Britain offshoot and in Thailand where there were total losses of £1.6 million, of which half related to bad debts (in both areas) and to foreign exchange losses in Thailand. Big efforts are in hand to control working capital requirements. The problems in Dale Electric GB and Thailand apart, the nine other group companies increased their profits. The group is tackling its less areas energetically and the medium and long-term view is positive. Dale Electric GB showed a profit for the first quarter of the current year, a momentum which the board believes can be maintained for the full year. The Thai operation is now trading positively. DEWEY WARREN HOLDINGS: Half-year to June 30. Net brokerage income £1.32 million (£1.56 million). Pretax profit £260,000 (£195,000). Earnings per share 1.3p (10.1p). The board gives a warning that the full-year pretax profit on ordinary activities will be less than for the first six months. WERE DRAIVE: Six months to June 30. Interim

Booker in £6.7m buy

Booker, the food distribution, agribusiness and health products group, is buying Stanley Middlebrook (Mushrooms) for a maximum price of £4.7 million. Middlebrook, based near Selby, Yorkshire, is Britain's third largest producer of mushrooms. It grows about 12 million pounds a year. Middlebrook made pretax profits in 1985 of £509,000. The purchase price is £5.2 million cash, plus a deferred payment of up to £1.5 million depending on profits this year and next. The "SHELL" TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY PLC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Notice of the Register will be struck on Wednesday, 3rd September, 1986, for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the FIRST PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 30th September, 1985. The dividend will be paid on 1st October, 1986. For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Wiltshire, before 3.00 pm on Wednesday, 3rd September, 1986. By Order of the Board D.W. Chesterton Company Secretary Shell Centre London SE1 7NA 22nd August, 1986 BASE LENDING RATES ABN & Company 10.00% BCCI 10.00% Citibank Savings 10.75% Consolidated Crd 10.00% Continental Trust 10.00% Co-operative Bank 10.00% C. Hoare & Co. 10.00% Hang Kong & Shanghai 10.00% Lloyds Bank 10.00% Nat Westminster 10.00% Royal Bank of Scotland 10.00% TSB 10.00% Citibank Base Rate.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns for various fund categories such as EQUITY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, FIXED INCOME UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, and SPECIALIST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS. Each entry includes the fund name, manager, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, change, and percentage change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for company name, price, change, and percentage change.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts with columns for company name, price, change, and percentage change.

Small text at the bottom of the page, likely a continuation of the financial data or a footer note.

Portfolio Gold
From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements...

Equities steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 11. Dealings end next Friday. Contango day September 1. Settlement day September 8.

Portfolio Gold
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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies and their performance.

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Weekly Total.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns: High Low, Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table of Short positions with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of Five to Fifteen Year positions with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table of Over Fifteen Year positions with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

UNDATED

Table of Undated positions with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

INDEX-LINKED

Table of Index-Linked positions with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table of Banks Discount HP with columns: No., Stock, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

BREWERIES table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

FOODS table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

INDUSTRIALS A-D table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: 1986 High Low, Company, Price, Chgs, Yr%, 1985.

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© Ex dividend £ Ex all £ Forecast dividend £ interim payment passed £ Price at settlement £ Dividend and yield excludes a special payment £ Pre-market figures if forecast earnings £ Ex other £ Ex rights £ Ex zero £ share split £ Tax-free ... No significant data.

Fifty ways to stop billions going through the roof

Tomorrow sees the opening of Energy World, an exhibition of 50 energy-efficient houses created to promote good housing design, and to increase awareness of the savings and greater comfort that energy-efficiency can offer.

The four-week show at Milton Keynes is the biggest event in Energy Efficiency Year. It puts the spotlight on energy conservation — a many-faceted subject which affects the nation at every level from government to the man in the street, or rather at home grumbling about high fuel bills.

According to the Energy Efficiency Office, Britain is bottom of the international energy-efficiency league. The nation wastes one-fifth of its total energy consumption, the equivalent of £7 billion a year, which is more than our income from North Sea oil. This could be saved if the cost-effective energy-efficiency measures available now were implemented throughout the country.

Of the £7 billion, some £3 billion arises from wastage in buildings, and £2 billion from domestic homes. Much of this money could be saved by measures that require modest or no investment. Moreover, many of the savings could result in greater comfort.

But they are not being implemented on anything like the scale required because there is a widespread lack of awareness, interest and information or ignorance about the benefits of energy efficiency. We lack the skills to manage the energy we consume.

In the domestic sector, for example, the Government provides more than £400 million in heating allowances to underwrite fuel bills in

low-income households. Much of this money is for fuel used on inefficient heating in poor housing.

Two years ago, the Energy Secretary, Peter Walker, announced a major initiative to overcome these problems with the aim of lifting Britain from bottom to top of the international energy-efficiency league.

Whether this ambitious objective will be achieved, remains to be seen. Numerous awareness campaigns and incentive schemes to encourage the use of energy-saving mea-

Incentive schemes show good results and require only small investments

asures have been introduced and are producing results. Probably the best known incentive scheme in the domestic sector is the Homes Insulation Scheme, which provides grants to householders towards the cost of installing for loft insulation.

The Energy Efficiency Office gives help to voluntary organizations to set up local projects for carrying out insulation work in the homes of the elderly and the disadvantaged. The work is done by unemployed people under the Community Programme run by the Manpower Services Commission.

The Government has also provided financial assistance for combined heat and power generation and district heating projects in various parts of the country.

Energy standards are being prepared and published. The

British Standards Institution, for example, has published a code of practice for energy efficiency in buildings — BS 6207 — together with an associated design guide. In addition, the Department of the Environment is revising the energy-efficiency provisions of the building regulations.

Energy utilization and conservation is also being studied in schools. The Department of Energy organizes seminars for teachers and provides educational material for schoolchildren of all age groups.

Awareness has also spread to the building societies, as exemplified by the Anglia Building Society's sponsorship of Energy World, and Abbey National's participation as a house exhibitor.

Even the Inland Revenue is sympathetic in that certain energy-saving improvements qualify for tax relief.

After Energy World, the Department of Energy will step up its campaign in the domestic sector with a massive Monergy ("get more for your money" get more out of your energy) mail and TV campaign. Every household in the country will be canvassed. A free magazine, Monergy News, will give advice on energy saving measures and carry special offers on energy-efficient products from advertisers.

Awareness of the need for energy-efficiency is still poor. A recent survey of architects carried out by the magazine *Building Design* found that only a quarter of the firms questioned felt they were reasonably skilled in energy conservation. The rest admitted they were almost completely ignorant of energy issues.



Energy savers: Hughes Homes, above, Stepped Homes, below left and FCKO House, below right; and below, a Haslam Home made predominantly in glass



Architects can now 'tune in'

A lot of work has been done to encourage energy efficiency but the growth of energy-consciousness among architects, builders and house buyers has been hampered by the lack of a commonly accepted way of quantifying standards for measuring how energy-efficient a given house is.

Visitors to Energy World, however, will be able to compare the relative fuel efficiencies of the houses on show, because each one has been rated according to its energy performance on a common standard. The rating used is the Milton Keynes Energy Cost Index (MKECI).

This is based on an estimate of a house's total annual running costs per square metre under certain standard conditions of occupancy and use. It is presented as a figure between 90 and 250 — the lower the figure, the lower the house's likely running costs.

The estimate takes into account the house's location and orientation as well as its size and fabric, and so goes further than current building regulations, which concentrate on the materials and methods used in construction.

A house built to current building regulations would have an MKECI rating of 170. The performance standard the Milton Keynes Development Corporation has set for the houses at Energy World is 120 — about 30 per cent better.

The MKECI differs from current building regulations in that it does not specify which measures should be used to meet the standard. Thus, it gives architects and builders greater degree of flexibility in design and construction.

The index does not predict actual energy consumption, but is rather like the fuel economy rating of a car. The miles per gallon figure assumes certain speed and driving conditions, but does not predict actual fuel consumption as this depends mainly on how people actually drive and take care of their cars.

The MKECI is estimated by using a special computer program on a IBM or similar

personal computer. The program can also help with house design by telling an architect which energy-efficient features will be the most effective for any given housing project.

He simply keys in the various energy-related parameters of the house he is designing, including external factors such as the type of soil the house is built on, the house's orientation, and how overhaded it is. The computer then produces the index in a few seconds.

The architect can "tune" his design to achieve the optimum index figure in terms of cost and efficiency, by changing any parameter value in the design and seeing its effects on the index figure.

The MKECI program has been developed by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation after many years' experience in developing energy-efficient housing. It has been field tested and it will be further tested next year, when the 12 months' monitored performance of various houses on the Energy World

Common measure is finally possible

site will be compared against their respective index ratings.

The index has been endorsed by the Building Research Establishment of the Department of the Environment, but it does have its critics. Some sectors of the building industry argue that the building regulations relating to the energy efficiency of building fabric should first be tightened before a more variable cost index is formulated.

In terms of amending or augmenting the building regulations, the Department of Energy plans to issue a draft discussion paper this autumn with a view to amending or adding to the existing building regulations.

According to the DoE, the changes would come into force in a year's time, and the possibility of a cost index acceptable to house designers, builders and buyers alike, would follow some time after that.

No-one will ever be the same again once they enter the houses on Plot 25.



What you see in there will totally revolutionise your thinking on the homes of the future.

Not only does that mean they can offer very economical running costs, but they can also give a high level of comfort and a fresh air environment, even in winter.

The secret of these houses is that they are all-electric.

Built by Prowting Estates and East Midlands Electricity, the houses incorporate the latest electric heating systems that are designed to make the most of Economy 7 night time electricity — which costs less than half price compared with today's standard domestic rate.

On top of this they have a high level of insulation complemented by an electrically operated ventilation system incorporating heat-recovery.

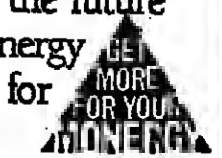
The proof of the efficiency of these houses is that they have satisfied the organisers of Energy World that they offer exceptionally low running costs.

Plot 25 is full of surprises. And there are others in store for you on Plot 22c; another all-electric home — built by Barratt in co-operation with the Electricity Supply Industry.

If you'd like to find out how electricity can help you build houses of the future today, visit plots 25 and 22c at Energy World, or dial 100 and ask for Freefone BuildElectric.

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FOCUS

ENERGY IN THE HOME/2

Traditional buildings are hard to beat

The Energy World Exhibition provides a rare opportunity to see the different ways of creating a house that is energy-efficient, cheap to run and comfortable to live in.

The 50 houses on view are a showcase of the latest thinking in energy-efficiency. And it is interesting to note that traditional brick-built houses outnumber those built by more modern techniques.

Of the 32 firms at the exhibition, 18 are exhibiting brick-built homes, 12 are showing timber-frame homes, and two feature homes of poured-concrete construction. All have insulated ground floors (a requirement not specified in the building regulations) as well as insulated roofs and walls, and double glazing.

Nearly 90 per cent are heated by gas. Of the rest, four are all-electric, including the house with the lowest energy cost index, and two use solid fuel as their main source of

quickly. The cast concrete house, however, heats up quickly but absorbs heat and therefore cools slowly.

A good example of the traditional approach to energy-efficient design is the Pilkington House.

A big three-bedroom detached house costing about £100,000, it is constructed from products in widespread use, and has an energy cost index rating of 81.1 — less than half the value achieved by a house built to standard building regulations.

Most of the improvement has been achieved by a combination of high standards of insulation, maximizing solar gain (heat from the sun), double glazing with high-performance glass and using high-efficiency boilers.

The design, based on Pilkington's 10 years' experience in energy-housing projects, is intended to show that there need be no mystique or cost penalty, in achieving good-quality design at low cost.

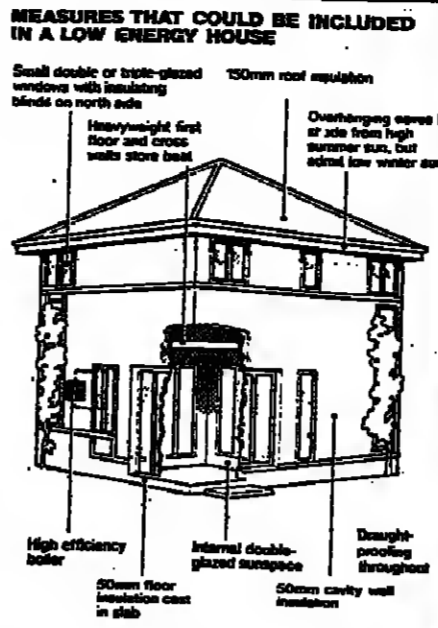
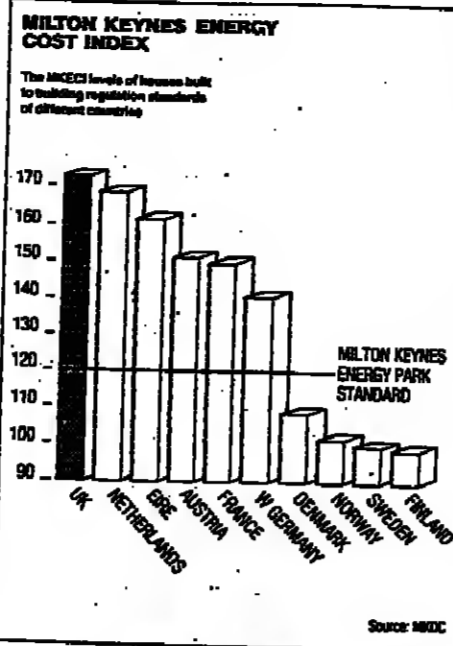
The use of traditional construction methods for cheap energy-efficient housing is demonstrated by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, which has built a complex of flats, houses and bungalows on a site near the exhibition entrance.

Costing between £23,000 and £55,000, they range from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom houses. They incorporate numerous energy-saving features which, with close attention to construction details, site layout and scheme planning, have led to running costs being 20 per cent less than comparable properties, the corporation says.

Poured-concrete houses, as their name implies, are made by casting the house walls on site and filling the wall cavity with insulation. This well-proven technique can be applied to contract work for local authorities and housing associations, as well as to private housing.

The four-bedroom house built by Mowlem, for example, is based on the low-energy passive solar housing the company built in 1979 for the Pennylands project, an experimental "estate" in Milton Keynes.

At about £100,000, the



Living in the showcase

With its 50 fuel-efficient houses, the Energy World Exhibition represents the first phase of the Milton Keynes Energy Park — the new city's most ambitious project in energy efficiency.

The first of its kind in the world, it is a 300-acre (125-hectare) site that will have employment areas, housing, parkland and community facilities designed to promote energy efficiency, internationally as well as in Britain.

This seven-year project began in 1985. It will eventually house 2,100 people and provide 2,500 jobs. It will help residents and businesses to cut their energy costs, and give them the most modern communications and information services.

The venture is being carried out by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation with the support of private companies, government departments, local authorities, the energy utilities, and telecommunications authorities.

A wide range of housing is planned, including ones for sale and plots for self-building. There will also be sheltered housing for the elderly, and shared-ownership housing for tenants wishing to buy a "share" of their house. Community facilities will include shops, schools, meeting halls and a local park.

Businesses will have a choice of ready-built premises or sites for those who prefer to build their own accommodation. Construction of the first commercial properties will start soon.

Buildings and landscaping are being designed to "cut energy costs to a minimum. Every building design will have to meet the same exacting standards in energy efficiency as the houses in Energy World.

Residents and businesses will be encouraged to use the most efficient energy resources, and the most energy-efficient equipment. Heat pumps and combined heat and power systems for serving groups of buildings are being considered.

As part of the park's role in promoting energy efficiency, a monitoring service will be set up to assess the effectiveness of new energy-saving techniques and to compare the energy usage of buildings on the site against the predictions made by their rating on the MKECI (Milton Keynes Energy Cost Index).

In addition, commercial energy-management and building services management will be offered, including the remote control of heating, lighting and air-conditioning.

The Energy Park will also serve as a large-scale demonstration project for energy efficiency. In the heart of the park will be the Energy Centre, which will be the focus for all the park's activities, and a permanent international information, education and recreation complex for promoting the understanding and efficient use of energy.

A visitors' centre will explain the concept of the Energy Park and provide advice and information. An exhibition area will use the latest display techniques to entertain and inform visitors on the subject of energy. Extra details will be available at a permanent trade centre. There, people will get access to sources of information from all over the world.

The complex will also have an education centre which will provide programmes for schoolchildren, teachers, householders and energy professionals. In addition, it will be linked to an exhibition park where visitors will be able to see large-scale displays in an attractive site next to lakes and parkland.

The Energy Centre will also be an administration base for companies in the park, and will provide management and business services. The entire complex will be managed by a company which will also be responsible for monitoring the projects in the Energy Park.

To focus attention on the Energy Park and stimulate energy awareness, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation plans to follow Energy World with a series of exhibitions on other aspects of energy. These include a demonstration of energy efficiency in business, and a large-scale exhibition on transport at which the latest fuel-efficient vehicles will be put through their paces.

Residents will have a cable-TV service offering seven entertainment channels, FM radio and the local community channel with Protonvision, a combination of teletext and photo quality images. Long-term plans include enhancing the provision of local information by upgrading the cable-TV system with interactive services such as telebanking, teleshopping and an electronic mailbox.

Teleshopping is on the cards particularly for small and medium-size companies. Opportunities for energy-efficient transport are also planned, including an Energy Track for experimental energy-efficient vehicles.

From the outset, the park will have the most advanced telecommunications facilities from both British Telecom and Mercury. Businesses will have a wide choice of voice, data and video services.

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Landscaping can cut heat losses

heating. None uses oil (Opec please note).

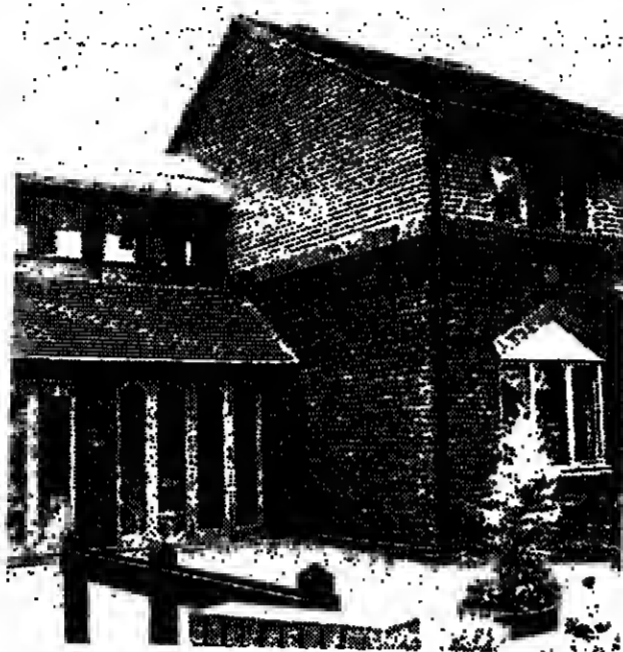
Many make use of passive solar measures such as south-facing conservatories and living areas. Some have landscaped gardens that provide shelter from the wind. One plot makes use of wind-generated electricity.

The houses on show illustrate two main schools of thought.

One is to use traditional methods and materials combined with careful design that makes maximum use of natural resources such as sunlight and shelter, to complement a basic cavity-wall construction of brick outside and concrete building blocks inside, the cavity being filled with insulation. The result is a structure that acts like a storage heater: it absorbs heat, radiating it internally, and is slow to cool.

The other school of thought is to use more modern methods that make houses independent of the environment. They have a well-insulated inner shell of either timber or cast concrete, the outer skin is of brick, rendering or timber cladding. The inner shell is airtight, making heating and ventilation easier to control.

The timber-frame house heats quickly, but also cools



Mowlem house has 24 energy-saving features, including a sun space/conservatory, controlled ventilation with heat recovery, lobbies on outer doors, double glazing and good insulation in the roof, walls and floor.

A German-developed variation on the concrete technique is embodied in the Multifarm Eastbuild house. Its shell has been made by pouring the concrete into moulds of Polystyrene, which subsequently provide the insulation.

The technique provides high-energy efficiency without depending on any particular orientation. It can be used for dwellings of any size or cost. It can also be used to extend buildings with minimal structural disturbance and without occupants having to evacuate the house.

The company claims the

construction procedures are simple and labour requirements modest. The result is a close-tolerance shell that enables external and internal finishing to be completed quickly.

The environmental independence of timber-frame houses is exemplified in the all-electric, three-bedroom house and two-bedroom flats built by Laing. Their airtightness coupled with their humidity-controlled heating and ventilation systems enable them to be energy-efficient without relying on the sun.

The house has an energy cost index of only 41.1 — the lowest in the exhibition — and its annual heating and hot-water costs are only £80.

Other houses also yield handsome savings for their occupants. The equivalent of a free family holiday every year

Energy World is co-sponsored by the Anglia Building Society and will be open for four weeks from tomorrow until Sunday, September 21. It will be followed by a special Energy World Business exhibition from September 26 until October 1.



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Visit Lot 15 and discover how Super Homes built the most energy efficient house* for Laing at the Milton Keynes Energy World Exhibition.

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There's also street entertainment, restaurants, bars, barbecue.

landscaped gardens, picnic areas, competitions, children's play areas, a supervised creche, celebrity appearances, the space-age 'Wigwam' house and plenty of free parking space.

So, come to Energy World, you'll have a great time and you could save yourself a fortune. August 23rd - September 21st, 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. daily. Admission: £3. Under 16's and senior citizens: £1. Under 5's: free. £7 Family Ticket. (Sorry, no pets.) By car: M1 Junction 14. By British Rail: Euston Line. Hotline: 0908 670311.



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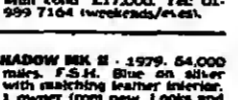
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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

BUSINESS (TO) BUSINESS



Going swimmingly: Don Rodocker and his company's bail-out pack

Lifeline for the diver

By Ian A Jack

A former deep-sea diver's company which started with a payroll of only three is, it says, now leading the underwater safety field with a new system.

Gas Services Offshore, an Aberdeen firm established in 1981 by Don Rodocker has developed an emergency bail-out pack to give deep-water divers 15 extra minutes of precious emergency air supply should disaster strike beneath the waves.

All divers carry emergency bail-out packs but at present these allow only 46 seconds of gas at depths of 500 metres — barely enough to reach the safety of the diving bell, their underwater base.

The Gas Services team, now grown to 35, has come up with a secondary life-support system to give 15 minutes of air to aid a diver in difficulty if his primary support is cut.

The company claims the new system is the most significant breakthrough in diver safety in the last decade. A company member, Moyra Hunter, said: "We have spent two years developing it and are confident it will do very well. We hope that it will set a standard the industry will follow."

Official recognition came last month when the Minister of State for Energy, Alick Bachmann-Smith, launched the new system.

Gas Services Offshore was originally set up by the 40-year old Rodocker because he recognized that the expensive helium used by deep-sea divers was "bubbling off" and going to waste. The potential for savings was enormous.

bearing in mind that the annual helium-oxygen consumption in the North Sea alone is 80 million cubic feet, which is worth £10 million.

The company first came up with a new recovery system. Using this closed-circuit system, gas breathed can be gathered and transferred to a repressuring unit on the diving-support vessel via the diver's umbilical link. Once treated and purified, the gas can be re-used.

The company has already won wide recognition for its systems. Gas Services equipment now operates in countries as far apart as South America, the Middle and Far East, the Gulf of Mexico and the Falklands. Turnover of the company has leapt from £110,000 in 1981 to £2,700,000 in 1985.

The world market for diver-gas recovery systems, however, is small and half that market has been tapped. So the company is moving into other fields of development, of which the secondary-life-support system is only one.

In an advanced stage of developments and due for launch this autumn is a new, low-cost, remotely operated "swimming" vehicle for underwater exploration. There are many vehicles of this kind on the market but Don Rodocker is hoping to score with price, selling at about £10,000, a fraction of current equipment costs.

The company's knowledge of diver medicine is also being put to use in the field of hyperbaric oxygen units, used mainly in multiple sclerosis treatment.

BRIEFING

British venture-capital investment in British companies nearly doubled to £277.5 million in 1985, according to the British Venture Capital Association's annual report. In contrast, the proportion invested by members in US companies was down sharply — from 25 per cent to 12 per cent of the total at £38 million.

An increase in total investment is partly because of the growth in membership of the association. Members invested a total of £325 million in 635 companies, with most going to ventures receiving risk equity for the first time. The proportion of funds channelled into start-up businesses has declined from 18 per cent of the total in 1984 to 12 per cent last year.

MR FRIDAY



"I warn you, getting this contract will not be easy for you - I'm tectonic"

Country matters for the Small Firms Service

By Sally Watts

The Government's Small Firms Service (SFS) is a regional face.

In the eastern region, which covers Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Essex, Ron Lynch is the acting manager, based at Cambridge. He finds many small enterprises grow out of existing regional activities.

Mr Lynch says: "East Anglia is moving fast, with high-technology industries following in the wake of Cambridge's science park. There are businesses that stem from farming, such as food or services and repairs. And small hotels and guest houses are increasing in number in the tourist areas, especially on the coast."

He has a staff of 11, who receive a grounding in business problems, with training courses, updating and talks by experts. There are 28 small-firms counsellors, and business-advice days are held at area job centres.

Most of the inquiries to SFS — which is sometimes called the GP for small businesses — come from enterprises with fewer than 25 employees. Last year the centre dealt with 23,500 inquiries.

Anyone starting or running a small business, who dials 100 and asks for Freefone Enterprise, gets advice, followed where necessary by leaflets and face-to-face counselling. The first three counselling sessions are free, after that each session is £30. The Government's business and technical advisory service is also available, and it, too, is free at the start.

England's 10 SFS centres — started by the Department of Trade and Industry but now part of the Department of Employment — last year answered 285,000 calls and provided 37,500 consultancy sessions. (Scotland and Wales have their own centres, linked with development agencies.)

The most frequent problems have been financial ones, particularly how to improve cash flow and how to prepare a business plan to secure a bank loan.

This usually takes two sessions with one of the SFS team of specialists, who are paid a retainer to counsel budding entrepreneurs. Applicants must say what market research they have carried out, describe the background of the new business and those involved with it and set out their existing financial back-up. The first session is to sort out the answers, the second to polish up the application.

Mr Lynch has found that many beginners are worried about premises. Most of these are on a long-term lease, so the best bet for a young business is a small workshop or "seedbed", where lets are short-term.

The SFS is often asked to find out what grants or loans are available. For help with a technical problem, a meeting is usually arranged with an expert of the technical advisory service.

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Advertisement for 'ROWING' featuring a match report on the Cobra strike and a 'DEGREE RESULTS' section for the Open University.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES BANK HOLIDAY DEADLINES' listing dates for August 26th and 27th.

Advertisement for 'DISCOUNTED FARES' listing various travel packages and flight deals.

Advertisement for 'WINTER SPORTS' listing ski and snowboard holiday packages.

Advertisement for 'CORRECTION' listing the names of students who have passed their degrees.

